

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (new): An assist device for a door handle and latch, said assist device comprising:

an elongated hollow bar;
one end of said bar constructed and arranged to pivot about a pivot means;
the other end of said bar constructed and arranged to receive a pivot piece
therein;
wherein said pivot piece is secured to said handle, projects outwardly
from said said handle and is not as wide as said handle;
the engagement of the pivot piece and the handle creating stop surfaces
for the bar as pivot piece is introduced into the bar.

Claim 26 (new): The assist device of claim 25, wherein said pivot means secures said bar to a
u-shaped bracket.

Claim 27 (new): The assist device of claim 26, wherein said bar near the pivot area rests entirely
within said bracket.

Claim 28 (new): The assist device of claim 25, wherein said pivot means consists of a long inside
threaded bolt which passes through said bracket and said bar, and a short
outside threaded bolt which is screwed into said long bolt.

Claim 29 (new): The assist device of claim 25, wherein said pivot piece is sturdily secured to
said handle with two nuts and bolts.

Claim 30 (new): The assist device of claim 26, wherein said bracket is sturdily secured to a door
or a door support with at least two screws.

Claim 31 (new): The assist device of claim 26, wherein said pivot means passes through the top part of said bar and through the top part of said u-shaped bracket.

Claim 32 (new): The assist device of claim 25, wherein said bar has a substantially constant cross-sectional area throughout its entire length.

Claim 33 (new): The assist device of claim 25, wherein said assist device parts appear to be very tightly and sturdily arranged, yet said bar pivots as desired.

Claim 34 (new): The assist device of claim 25, wherein said bar has a square cross-sectional shape.

Claim 35 (new): The assist device of claim 34, wherein said pivot piece is flat and substantially rectangular to form a relatively tight fit inside the bar.

Claim 36 (new): An assist device for a door handle, said assist device comprising:
an elongated hollow bar;
one end of said bar constructed and arranged to pivot about a pivot means;
the other end of said bar constructed and arranged to receive a pivot piece;
said pivot piece not as wide as said handle and projecting from said handle;
the engagement of the pivot piece and handle creating stop surfaces for the bar as the pivot piece is introduced into the bar.

Claim 37 (new): The assist device of claim 36, wherein said pivot means comprises a hollow inside threaded long bolt receiving an outside threaded short bolt therein.

Claim 38 (new): The assist device of claim 36, wherein said pivot means secures a bar end to a u-shaped bracket.

Claim 39 (new): The assist device of claim 38, wherein said bar near said pivot means rests entirely within said bracket.

Claim 40 (new): The assist device of claim 39, wherein said pivot means passes through the top part of said bar and through the top part of said u-shaped bracket.

Claim 41 (new): An assist device for a door latch and handle, said assist device comprising:
an elongated hollow bar;

one end of said bar constructed and arranged to pivot about a
pivot pin;

the other end of said bar constructed and arranged to receive a
pivot piece therein;

said pivot pin securing said bar to a u-shaped bracket;

said pivot pin comprising a long inside threaded hollow bolt
which passes through a top part of said bar and a top part
of said bracket, and a short outside threaded bolt screwed
into said long bolt;

said pivot piece secured to said handle by two nuts and two bolts,
projects from said handle and is not as wide as said handle;

the engagement of the pivot piece and handle creating stop
surfaces for the bar as the pivot piece is introduced into
the bar;

said pivot piece, bracket and bar being substantially axially
aligned along a longitudinal axis.